

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the second paragraph at page 4 starting at line 9 and ending at page 5 line 2.

With respect to evaporation of water from a nozzle opening of an ink jet head, detailed studies have already been made, and for example, it is known from Mehmet Z.Sengun, IS&T NIP 13, 1997, on ~~P681~~ shows page 681, that when pure ink containing 95% of water and 5% of ethylene glycol is left for 10 seconds under the 15%RH surroundings, concentration of water on the surface of nozzle opening is lowered from 95% to 20%. Under the 60%RH surroundings, concentration is lowered to 40%, and viscosity is increased suddenly in both cases. When pigment or polymer is contained, deposit of solid or formation of a film takes place in a very short time, and viscosity is capable of rising suddenly. Since ink viscosity at the nozzle opening is suddenly increased locally as stated above even in the case of interruption of jetting for an extremely short time, inability of jetting or image deterioration is caused unless jetting is conducted after viscosity is lowered.